

**PREPARED COMMENTS BEFORE THE  
HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGARDING HOUSE BILL NO. 5281**

**Kenneth A. Poynter  
Mayor, City of Harper Woods**

Good Morning, my name is Ken Poynter and I am the Mayor of Harper Woods. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you in support of House Bill 5281. My comments will be very brief. This bill is essentially an issue of governance. The Milk River system provides storm drain runoff for our city, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods and a very small section of St. Clair Shores and a small portion of the State's highway system. The City of Harper Woods pays approximately \$1.5 million each year as our share of the system's operation, maintenance and debt retirement costs. This represents approximately 35% of the total cost. The other 65% is paid mostly by the City of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Under the current drain code, the Board that governs the system's operation consists of three people, a representative from Wayne County's Department of Environment, a representative from the Macomb County Drain Commissioner's office, and a representative from the State Department of Agriculture. Neither the City of Harper Woods, nor the City of Grosse Pointe Woods has voting representation on the board, despite the fact that our communities pay nearly 100% of the cost.

House Bill 5281 will provide us fair representation on the Board that governs the Milk River System. It will allow a representative from Harper Woods and a representative from Grosse Pointe Woods to at least have a seat at the table. This long needed legislation will address this simple issue of fairness.

I ask your support of this bill and your favorable reporting of it to the full House.

Thank you.

Tuesday, October 25, 2005